

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

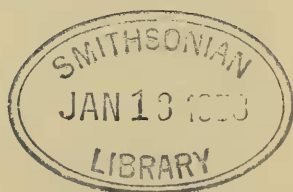
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

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## DIRECTION 80

Confirmation of the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* relating to the generic name *Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (Class Urochorda) (*Direction* supplementary to *Opinion* 94)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*)  
(16th December 1954)

## DIRECTION 80

### CONFIRMATION OF THE ENTRY ON THE " OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY " RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAME " MOLGULA " FORBES, 1848 (CLASS UROCHORDA) (" DIRECTION " SUPPLEMENTARY TO " OPINION " 94)

**RULING** :—(1) The position on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the name *Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (Class Urochorda) is hereby confirmed, subject to the substitution in respect of the above name of the following amended entry in place of that made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 94 :—

*Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Hartmeyer (R.) (1914) : *Molgula oculata* Forbes, 1848).

(2) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1441 :—

*oculata* Forbes, 1848, as published in the combination *Molgula oculata* (specific name of type species of *Molgula* Forbes, 1848).

(3) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 197 :—

MOLGULIDAE Lacaze-Duthiers (F.J.H.de), 1877 (type genus : *Molgula* Forbes, 1848).

#### I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT " DIRECTION "

The purpose of the present *Direction* is to confirm and complete the entry relating to the generic name *Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (Class Urochorda) made on the *Official List of Generic Names in*

*Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 94. The circumstances of this case were brought to the attention of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in the following paper submitted by the Secretary on 11th April 1957 :—

**Proposed confirmation of the entry relating to the generic name  
“Molgula” Forbes, 1848 (Class Urochorda) made on the  
“Official List of Generic Names in Zoology” by the  
Ruling given in “Opinion” 94 and matters incidental  
thereto**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

1. The purpose of the present note is to lay before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature certain supplementary information regarding the generic name *Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (Class Urochorda), which was placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 94 (1926, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 4) : 13) and to submit recommendations for the disposal of outstanding matters connected with this name.

2. When the name *Molgula* Forbes was placed on the *Official List*, the entry so made, which was drawn up in the contracted and incomplete form then in vogue, was as follows :—“*Molgula* Forbes, 1848 ; 1853, 36, type *M. oculata* Forbes, 1848 ; 1853, 36”. The correct reference for this name is :—*Molgula* Forbes, 1848, in Forbes & Hanley, *Hist. Brit. Moll.* 1 : 36. The gender attributable to the name *Molgula* Forbes has been determined as being the feminine gender by the Ruling given by the Commission in *Direction* 42 (1956, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 1(D) : 153—179).

3. Forbes cited two nominal species as belonging to his genus *Molgula*, namely, (i) *Molgula oculata* Forbes, then a new species (: 36) and (ii) what he called *Molgula tubulosa* Rathke (: 36). (The specific name *tubulosa* cited by Forbes is an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for the name *tubularis* Rathke, 1806, as published in the combination *Ascidia tubularis* (Rathke, (J.), 1806 in Müller (O.F.), *Zool. dan.* (ed. 13) 4 : 12). Rathke's name is now treated as a junior subjective synonym of the name of a species currently placed in a different genus.

4. No type species was designated or indicated by Forbes for the genus *Molgula*, the type species of which must therefore be one of the two nominal species cited above. The first author definitely to select a type species for this genus was Hartmeyer who in 1914 (*SitzBer. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin* 1914 (No. 1) : 5) so selected the nominal species *Molgula oculata* Forbes, 1848.

5. The genus *Molgula* Forbes is a well-known taxon in the Class Urochorda and is the type genus of the family MOLGULIDAE which was established by Lacaze-Duthiers (F.J.H. de) in 1877 (*Arch. Zool. expér. gén.* 6 : 488). The nominal species *Molgula oculata* Forbes, the type species of this genus, is currently regarded as representing a taxonomically good species, for which Forbes' name *oculata* is the oldest available specific name.

6. In common with the names of genera of other groups, the names of genera of the Class Urochorda placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936 were reviewed in the Office of the Commission in the period 1955—1956 for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of any supplementary action by the Commission required as a preliminary to the publication of the forthcoming edition of the *Official List* in book-form. The result of this review, so far as concerns the names of genera of the Phyla Mollusca, Brachiopoda and Echinodermata and of the Class Urochorda of the Phylum Chordata, was submitted to the Commission on 28th August 1956 in a paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1124 simultaneously with Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)21. On that occasion it was explained that no proposals were being submitted in connection with the generic name *Molgula* Forbes, it having been judged desirable temporarily to postpone consideration of the position of that name on the *Official List* in order to permit of a further examination of a generic name of older date long treated as a *nomen dubium* which it had in the past been claimed should be looked upon as a senior subjective synonym of *Molgula* Forbes. This question has now been examined in consultation with interested specialists. The results are set out in the following paragraphs.

7. The generic name which, as explained above, might, it was thought, endanger the position of *Molgula* Forbes was the name *Caesira* Fleming, 1822 (*Phil. Zool.* 2 : 511), as used by that author in the binomen *Caesira dione* (= *Cynthia dione* Savigny, 1816, *Mém. Anim.*

*sans Vertèbr.* (2) : 93). Fleming's observation on this matter was of the scantiest nature, reading as follows :—

“ Meshes of the branchiae interrupted by the folds. *C. diona* [sic] of Sav. Tab. vii. f. 1. The *Ascidia quadridentata* of Forskael.”

8. The name *Caesira* Fleming is not a junior homonym of any generic name consisting of the same word and, as it was published with a cited included nominal species, it is, as a name published before 1931, an available name. In view of the fact that, although Fleming cited two nominal species in connection with this genus, he regarded it as containing only one taxonomically valid species (*C. dione* Savigny), the name of the other cited species being given only as a subjective junior synonym, the genus *Caesira* Fleming is, under *Declaration 26* (1956, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : xxxvii—1), to be treated as being a monotypical genus with *Cynthia dione* Savigny, 1816, as type species.

9. For eighty-six years following its publication the generic name *Caesira* Fleming was lost in well-deserved obscurity. In 1908, however, Hartmeyer (*Zool. Ann.* 3 : 17—18) claimed that he had been able to recognise in the words written by Fleming in 1822 (quoted in paragraph 7 above) evidence that the name *Caesira* Fleming applied to the genus which was then, and for long had been, known by the name *Molgula* Forbes, which he accordingly sank as a junior subjective synonym. In the following year in the Tunicata volume (Volume 3, Suppl. : 1324) of Bronn's *Die Klassen und Ordnungen des Thierreichs*, Hartmeyer again sank *Molgula* Forbes as a junior synonym of *Caesira* Fleming. This produced a strong reaction from W. E. Ritter (1913, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 45 : 433) who, after reaffirming his adherence to the principle of applying the priority rule strictly, advanced arguments rebutting the synonymisation by Hartmeyer of *Molgula* with *Caesira*. Ritter's protest carried conviction with Hartmeyer who in the following year (1914, *SitzBer. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin* 1914 (No. 1) : 3, 5) withdrew completely from his former position, abandoning the name *Caesira* Fleming and re-instating the name *Molgula* Forbes, at the same time (as noted in paragraph 4 above) selecting *Molgula oculata* Forbes as type species of the latter genus. Since the publication of this paper of Hartmeyer's—that is, for over forty years—the name *Caesira* has completely disappeared, being treated by all specialists as a *nomen dubium*, the nominal species *Cynthia dione* Savigny, which is its type species, being unrecognisable. Equally unrecognisable is the species to which Forskål applied the name *quadridentata*, which it is agreed is not the same as that to which in 1767 Linnaeus gave the name *Ascidia quadridentata*.

10. For the information briefly summarised in the immediately preceding paragraph the Commission is much indebted to the following

specialists who have very kindly assisted in the preparation of the material required for the present case :—

D. P. Abbott, *Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, California, U.S.A.*

N. J. Berrill, *McGill University, Montreal, Canada*

Willard G. Van Name, *New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.*

11. It is necessary now to consider what action should be taken by the Commission in relation to the entry regarding the generic name *Molgula* Forbes already made on the *Official List*. As regards this, my view is that the name *Molgula* Forbes, as the name of an important genus which is the type genus of a family and as a name which has been on the *Official List* for nearly thirty years, certainly ought not to be displaced in favour of some obscure name of older date. If there existed any such name which there was any ground for regarding as a possible senior synonym of *Molgula* Forbes, I should certainly take the view that that name ought to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers in favour of the name *Molgula*. In the present case, however, there is no such name, the only challenge to the position of that name that has ever been made being a challenge made nearly fifty years ago by an eminent specialist who within the space of four years withdrew the claims which he had advanced in favour of the older name concerned (*Caesira* Fleming) and unreservedly reinstated *Molgula* Forbes as a valid name. The name *Caesira* Fleming, though, as is now admitted by all specialists, a useless and undesirable *nomen dubium*, cannot be regarded as being any longer even a potential threat to the stability of the stability of the name *Molgula* Forbes. It appears to me, therefore, that, although it will no doubt be desirable for the name *Caesira* Fleming, in common with other *nomina dubia* in the group concerned, to be deprived of the status of availability on the first occasion on which specialists in the Urochorda set their hands to the task of clearing out the dead wood from the nomenclature of their group, there is no need for such action to be taken in connection with the present case which is concerned solely with the question of stabilising the position of the name *Molgula* Forbes on *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

12. For the purposes of the present case I therefore recommend that the *International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* should :—

- (1) confirm the position of the generic name *Molgula* Forbes, 1848, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and substitute the following revised entry in regard thereto for that made by the Ruling given in *Opinion 94*

*Molgula* Forbes, 1848 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Hartmeyer (R.) (1914) : *Molgula oculata* Forbes, 1848)

- (2) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

*oculata* Forbes, 1848, as published in the combination  
*Molgula oculata* (specific name of type species of *Molgula*  
Forbes, 1848)

- (3) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—

MOLGULIDAE Lacaze-Duthiers (F.J.H. de), 1877 (type genus :  
*Molgula* Forbes, 1848).

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Hemming's paper the question of confirming and completing the existing entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in regard to the name *Molgula* Forbes was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1073.

## II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)5 :** On 11th April 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(57)5) was issued in which each Member of the Commission was asked (1) to state whether he agreed that "in conformity with the General Directives issued to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the Thirteenth International Congress on Zoology, Paris, 1948, regarding the placing on the appropriate *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* of names dealt with in, or otherwise involved in, *Opinions* rendered prior to 1948, the names of taxa belonging to the Class Urochorda of the Phylum Chordata referred to in Sections (1), (2) and (3) of paragraph 12 of the Paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1073 [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] submitted simultaneously with the present Voting Paper be confirmed or, as the case may be, be placed on the appropriate *Official Lists* as there recommended and that the other action recommended in the said paragraph be similarly approved" and (2), if he did not agree as regards any given item, to specify that item.

**4. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 11th May 1957.



**5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)5 :**

At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)5 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Lemche ; Holthuis ; Vokes ; Hering ; Kühnelt ; Hankó ; Esaki ; Boschma ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Key ; Cabrera ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Jaczewski ; Mertens ; Dymond ; Hemming ; Stoll ; Bonnet ; Prantl ; Bodenheimer ; Tortonese ; do Amaral ; Riley ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1) :*

Mayr ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

**6. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 12th May 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)5, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**7. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Direction ” :**

On 10th August 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)5.

**8. Original References :** The following is the original reference for the specific name placed on the *Official List* of names of taxa of the above category by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

*oculata*, *Molgula*, Forbes, 1848, in Forbes & Hanley, *Hist. Brit. Moll.* **1** : 36

**9.** The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for the genus *Molgula* Forbes, 1848, specified in Section (1) of the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

Hartmeyer, 1914, *SitzBer. Ges. naturf. Freunde Berlin* **1914** (No. 1) : 5

**10.** The following is the original reference for the family-group name placed on the *Official List* of names of taxa of the foregoing category by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

MOLGULIDAE Lacaze-Duthiers (F.J.H.de), 1877, *Arch. Zool. expér. gén.* **6** : 488

**11.** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

**12.** The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* Eighty (80) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Tenth day of August, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**